

What is claimed is:

1. An automotive device for displaying vehicle parameters that are transmitted via a vehicle data bus, comprising:
 - a display;
 - a connector for releasably connecting to a vehicle data bus;
 - a processor in circuit communication with the display and the connector; and
 - a mounting device secured to the display;wherein the mounting device is configured to facilitate securing the display to a vehicle.
2. The automotive device for displaying vehicle parameters that are transmitted on a vehicle data bus of claim 1, further comprising a communications circuit in circuit communications with the processor and the connector for establishing communications via the vehicle data bus.
3. The automotive device for displaying vehicle parameters that are transmitted on a vehicle data bus of claim 1, wherein the connector comprises an OBD II connector.
4. The automotive device for displaying vehicle parameters that are transmitted on a vehicle data bus of claim 1, wherein the display comprises one or more analog gauges.
5. The automotive device for displaying vehicle parameters that are transmitted on a vehicle data bus of claim 4, further comprising a digital to analog conversion circuit in circuit communication with the processor for driving the one or more analog gauges.
6. The automotive device for displaying vehicle parameters that are transmitted on a vehicle data bus of claim 1, wherein the display comprises a digital display.
7. The automotive device for displaying vehicle parameters that are transmitted on a vehicle data bus of claim 1, wherein the display comprises a graphical display.
8. The automotive device for displaying vehicle parameters that are transmitted on a vehicle data bus of claim 1, wherein the display comprises a liquid crystal display.
9. The automotive device for displaying vehicle parameters that are transmitted on a vehicle data bus of claim 1, wherein the display comprises a plasma display.
10. The automotive device for displaying vehicle parameters that are transmitted on a vehicle data bus of claim 1, wherein the display comprises a tachometer display.
11. The automotive device for displaying vehicle parameters that are transmitted on a vehicle data bus of claim 1, wherein the display displays an oil pressure parameter.
12. The automotive device for displaying vehicle parameters that are transmitted on a vehicle data bus of claim 1, wherein the display displays a horsepower parameter.

13. The automotive device for displaying vehicle parameters that are transmitted on a vehicle data bus of claim 1, wherein the display displays a torque parameter.
14. The automotive device for displaying vehicle parameters that are transmitted on a vehicle data bus of claim 1, wherein the display displays fuel economy parameter.
15. The automotive device for displaying vehicle parameters that are transmitted on a vehicle data bus of claim 1, wherein the display displays a temperature parameter.
16. A method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle comprising the steps of:
 - mounting one or more instruments in a vehicle; and
 - releasably placing the one or more instruments in circuit communication with a vehicle data bus.
17. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 16 wherein the step of releasably placing the one or more instruments in circuit communication with a vehicle data bus comprises plugging a connector into the vehicle data bus.
18. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 17 wherein the step of releasably connecting the instrument to the vehicle data bus comprises plugging an OBD II connector into a mating connector on the vehicle data bus.
19. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 16 further comprising selecting one or more vehicle parameters to be displayed on the one or more instruments.
20. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 16 wherein the step of mounting the one or more instruments in a vehicle comprises mounting the one or more instruments outside of a factory installed instrument panel in the vehicle.
21. A method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle comprising the steps of:
 - a. providing an automotive device, comprising:
 - i. a display;
 - ii. a connector for releasably connecting to vehicle on board diagnostic circuitry;
 - iii. a communications circuit in circuit communication with the connector for establishing communications with the vehicle on board diagnostic circuitry;
 - iv. a processor in circuit communication with the display and the communications circuit, the processor receiving vehicle data from the vehicle on board diagnostic circuitry via the communications circuit and causing the display to show a display corresponding to the received vehicle data; and

- v. a mount for securing at least the display proximate an instrument cluster of the vehicle;
 - b. mounting at least the display of the automotive device in view of a driver of the vehicle and outside of a factory installed instrument panel in the vehicle; and
 - c. releasably connecting the connector to the vehicle on board diagnostic circuitry, thereby placing the processor in circuit communication with the on board diagnostic circuitry via the communications circuit.
- 22. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 21 wherein the processor and the communications circuit are integral.
- 23. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 21 wherein the connector comprises an OBD II connector.
- 24. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 21, wherein the display comprises one or more analog gauges.
- 25. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 21, wherein the display comprises one or more analog gauges and further comprising a digital to analog conversion circuit in circuit communication with the processor for driving the one or more analog gauges.
- 26. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 25, wherein the processor and the digital to analog conversion circuit are integral.
- 27. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 21, wherein the display comprises a digital display.
- 28. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 21, wherein the display comprises a graphical display.
- 29. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 21, wherein the display comprises a tachometer display.
- 30. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 21, wherein the display displays an engine revolutions per minute parameter. [Worthy of being moved up? You decide.]
- 31. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 21, wherein the display displays an indication to the driver to shift gears. [Worthy of being moved up? You decide.]
- 32. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 21, wherein the display displays an oil pressure parameter.
- 33. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 21, wherein the display displays a horsepower parameter.

34. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 21, wherein the display displays a torque parameter.
35. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 21, wherein the display displays fuel economy parameter.
36. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 21, wherein the display displays a temperature parameter.
37. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 21 wherein said step of mounting at least the display of the automotive device in view of a driver of the vehicle comprises the step of mounting at least the display of the automotive device adjacent to and outside of the factory installed instrument panel in the vehicle.
38. The method for installing additional instrumentation in a vehicle of claim 37 wherein the connector comprises an OBD II connector.